



City of Scottsdale 2019 State Legislative Agenda

54th Arizona Legislature
First Regular Session
2019

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The Scottsdale City Council



**Mayor
W.J. "Jim" Lane**



**Councilwoman
Suzanne Klapp**



**Councilmember
Virginia Korte**



**Councilwoman
Kathy Littlefield**



**Councilwoman
Linda Milhaven**



**Vice Mayor
Guy Phillips**



**Councilman
David N. Smith**

City of Scottsdale 2019 State Legislative Agenda



MISSION

"Simply Better Service for a World-Class Community"

CORE PRINCIPLES

Value Scottsdale's Unique Lifestyle and Character

Protect those attributes that make Scottsdale unique and desirable. These may include: safe neighborhoods; a Sonoran Desert lifestyle; arts and culture; land preservation and open space; a vibrant and diverse economy; efficient transportation; and high standards of aesthetics, public amenities, and levels of service.

Preserve Local Funding

Protect existing funding and authorities that bring revenue to the City of Scottsdale, which support the quality of life for its residents. Such areas may include: the protection of state-shared revenues; the ability to collect compensation for the use of a public right-of-way; and opposition to the imposition of new fees by other levels of government that would increase costs to the City.

State-Shared Revenues – Arizona voters chose, through a series of initiatives, to return a portion of tax revenues back to local communities through revenue sharing. This was provided to municipalities in exchange for losses in local taxing authority such as income and luxury taxes. The City Council adopted FY 2018/19 General Fund revenues that include \$65.7 million in state-shared revenues (\$24.5 million sales tax, \$30.3 million income tax and \$10.9 million auto lieu tax) or 22 percent of General Fund revenues and transfers in. These state-shared revenues represent 24 percent of the City's General Fund operating budget of approximately \$276.1 million.

Oppose Preemption of Local Authority

Support the retention of local decision-making authority. Scottsdale was voluntarily created by the residents of this community to provide local self-government and to allow the Scottsdale City Council to make decisions at a local level that best meet the needs of the community. Scottsdale has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its own local governing body. Unfunded mandates and preemptive efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed.

2019 Key Positions

- 🔑 ***SUPPORT implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan, if such implementation protects the City's existing priorities and rights, including underground storage of our Colorado River and reclaimed water, and ensure water left in Lake Mead benefits the Colorado River System.***
- 🔑 ***SUPPORT legislation to address the negative impacts that short-term rental properties can have on adjacent properties and neighborhoods.***
- 🔑 ***SUPPORT legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.***
- 🔑 ***OPPOSE legislation that would to limit or curtail the City's current zoning authority of home-based businesses in residential areas.***
- 🔑 ***OPPOSE changing the imposition of construction sales taxes to "materials only" or other methods that do not equitably return those revenues to where the construction activity occurs.***

LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

ECONOMIC VITALITY AND TOURISM

- ✎ *SUPPORT legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.*
- *SUPPORT a dedicated state fund to better position Arizona to attract and host major attraction events.*
- *SUPPORT policies that enhance Arizona's reputation as a world-class medical destination for cutting-edge health care facilities and services.*
- *SUPPORT legislation or actions that increase angel investor initiatives for start-up technology companies.*
- *SUPPORT additional job creation measures including workforce training.*
- *SUPPORT legislation or actions that embrace emerging technology in Arizona.*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

- *SUPPORT the continued viability of HURF funding to cities and towns and support phasing down the percentage of HURF revenues being used to fund the Arizona Department of Public Safety.*
- *OPPOSE legislation that would prohibit or eliminate the transaction privilege tax on the renting or leasing of real property for residential purposes. The negative impact to the City of Scottsdale from the loss of these funds would be in excess of \$5 million annually.*

TRANSPORTATION

- *SUPPORT the continuation of Arizona's leadership in the development of autonomous vehicles and devices.*
- *SUPPORT the continued viability of the State Aviation Fund including assurances that fuel taxes will be placed in the Fund or returned to the airport where the fuel sales occur.*

NEIGHBORHOODS

- ***SUPPORT legislation to address the negative impacts that short-term rental properties can have on adjacent properties and neighborhoods.***
- ***OPPOSE legislation that would limit or curtail the City's current zoning authority of home-based businesses in residential areas.***

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ***OPPOSE legislation that would impair the City's ability to maintain the effectiveness of Scottsdale's measures such as the Public Safety Plan Ordinance. The purpose of the Ordinance is to promote the general health, safety, and welfare of our community by requiring certain types of businesses to file, follow, and keep current a public safety plan. The Ordinance also requires mandatory training for security personnel.***
- ***OPPOSE legislation that negatively impacts the City's Fire Code or its ability to enforce its Fire Code provisions. The primary purpose of a fire code is the prevention of fires, reducing the impact of fire incidents that do occur, ensuring that necessary training and equipment will be on hand and that the original design basis of a home or building does not compromise the safety of its occupants.***
- ***OPPOSE legalizing additional fireworks or other changes that would increase the risk of fires to residents and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.***
- ***OPPOSE legislation that will restrict the City's ability to pass or enact local community risk reduction measures.***
- ***OPPOSE legislation that would limit the City's ability to use photo technology for enforcement of speed and intersection violations.***

PRESERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Native Plant Ordinance – The City of Scottsdale adopted its Native Plant Ordinance in 1981. Its purpose was to protect the slow-growing cactus and native trees that make the Sonoran Desert a special place.

- ***OPPOSE legislation that would negatively alter or remove the City of Scottsdale's important and long-established ordinances regarding native plants and how development occurs in the natural Sonoran Desert environment.***

Forest Restoration/Watershed Management – There are millions of acres of diseased, dying, and overgrown forests that have created a widespread forest health problem. The poor condition of these forests has dramatically increased the effects of insect infestation, understory overgrowth, and unnatural fire conditions. The forest health problem is widespread and is affecting wildlife habitat, watershed management, and increasing the dangers to human life and property.

- ***SUPPORT legislative efforts to bring about changes in forest management with the goal of enacting effective and large-scale forest restoration projects to improve forest health, increase water yield, and reduce the risks and costs of catastrophic wildfires.***

WATER SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Water Service – It is essential to ensure the protection and enhancement of the City's ability to provide safe, sustainable, and reliable water and wastewater services to the citizens of Scottsdale at a reasonable cost.

- ***🔑 SUPPORT implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan, if such implementation protects the City's existing priorities and rights, including underground storage of our Colorado River and reclaimed water, and ensures water left in Lake Mead benefits the Colorado River System.***
- ***SUPPORT legislation to enhance the value of reclaimed water by removing the 2025 sunset for the ability to earn long-term storage credits by recharging effluent and set the amounts of credits earned from recharging effluent in a managed recharge project equivalent to Central Arizona Project (CAP) water.***
- ***SUPPORT positions that strengthen Arizona's water management including supporting the 1980 Groundwater Management Act and the ability of local water providers to manage, plan, conserve, and acquire water resources for our customers.***
- ***SUPPORT legislation to ensure the City's role in the management and continued use of reclaimed and remediated waters.***

Approved by the Scottsdale City Council, November 26th, 2018